starvation death in Koraput and Kalahandi districts of Orissa.

(c) The question does not arise.

Programme to supply potable water in rural areas

90 SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SSHRI M. KADHARSHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any programme to make adequate quantity of potable water available in rural areas and to ensure sustained availability of such water on long-term basis;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to identify the problems associated with the supply of potable water in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) Supply of drinking water being a State subject, all rural water supply schemes are planned, formulated and implemented by State|UT Governments. However, to give an additional impetus to the efforts of the States, the Central Government is providing substantial financial assistance to States|UTs, under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). For providing suitable science and technology inputs for solution of the problems in rural water supply on a long-term basis in an integrated and cost-effective manner, a Technology Mission on Drinking Water and Related Water Management was launched in 1986 with an objective to cover all the residual problem villages with safe drinking water facilities.

(b) Under the ARWSP, grants-in-aid are being given to States and U.Ts on the basis of objective need based criteria. The objectives of the Technology Mission Programme are to evolve a cost effective technology mix for covering the residual uncovered problem villages with potable water supply at the rate of 40 litres per capita-per day within the constraint of the Seventh Plan financial allocations. This is being done through scientific source finding, improvement of traditional methods, improvement of materials and designs and maintenance methods, continuous monitoring and evaluation, implementation of computerized Management Information Systems, by increasing community involvement through voluntary agencies and village panchayats and by undertaking effective awareness campaigns. The focus is on 50 Mini Missions (Project Areas) where scientific and technology efforts are being concentrated in an integrated manner with the collaboration of agencies|departments such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Department of Science and Technology, Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Central Ground Water Board, concerned departments of the State Governments. The solutions evolved in Mini Missions are being incorporated in the on-going rural water supply programme and replicated in other parts of the country.

(c) Under the Technology Mission on Drinking Water, country-wide Sub-Missions have been started for identification and removal of problems associated with the supply of potable water in rural areas. These will focus on obtaining visible results in (i) Control of Brackishness (ii) Eradication of Guineaworm (iii) Removal of excess iron (iv) Control of Fluorisis and (v) Recharge of ground water aquifers. State Governments have already identified problem villages after undertaking extensive surveys.

Lapse of grants under rural development

91. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI M. KADHARSHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grants given under the Rural Development Programme